S A N A T A N

Pratnakirttimapavrinu
(Let us attempt to unravel the glorious past – *Rigveda*)

Editor
Dr Alok Tripathi

Issue 23 **15.04.2009** **Year 2. No. 7**



Konark Museum : Wheel of the Sun temple (source : Alok Tripathi, 2008)

South **A**sian **N**etwork of **A**rcheologists/academicians for **T**echnical and **A**rtistic **N**urturing

"When we blindly adopt a religion, a political system, a literary dogma, we become automatons. We cease to grow."
- Anais Nin

CONTENTS

Editorial	2	UNESCO	15
Heritage	3	Discovery	15
Opportunities	6	Underwater archaeology	16
Technology	8	Antiquities	16
Museums	10	Collaboration	17
Legal issues	11	Appointments	18
News	13	Obituary	18
Neighbours	14	Notes for contributors	20

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

From October to February most of our colleagues were in the field, excavating different archaeological sites in different parts of the country. Every archaeologist and researcher remain curious to know about the findings of these excavations and new evidence unearthed by field archaeologists. But, unfortunately, often it takes a long time – some times several years, and in some cases several decades to prepare excavation reports and researchers have to wait for a long.

Field archaeologists are working hard in the field but the quantum of information coming out is much less then the work done and evidence found. There are certain short comings, restrains but also certain apprehensions which hinders the flow of information. Perhaps it's the right time we re-look and re-think.

If we are willing to share information and thoughts honestly, nothing can stop us from widening our knowledge, shading more light on the past and overcoming all hurdles.

Editor

HERITAGE

A City Is A Mindscape

Development should not be at the cost of heritage



Mumbai : Old buildings (source : Alok Tripathi, April 2009)

Preserving our heritage is a significant step forward in developing our society, as opposed to developing a particular plot. Yet some of Mumbai's top municipal authorities seem to think heritage gets in the way of development. We say we want to turn Mumbai into a great financial centre. What defines such a center? What will make it "great"? It is certainly not financial reforms. You can have a wonderful catalogue of such reforms and still not attract the people you need to run the system. To do that, you need to go much beyond the fiscal frame-work. You have to give the people you want to attract a quality of life that comes up to the expectations they have of a great city.

People want not just comfortable living and working conditions, but an enriching life in their leisure time. They want a surfeit of choices. There must be music, theatre, dance, art shows, sports events, museum visits and a range of other leisure activities to choose from. It is beside the point that they will not go to most of these events. The attraction of a "great" city - New York, Sydney, London, Paris, San Francisco and even New Delhi - lies in the fact that these choices exist. People always prefer a city that offers such choices to one that does not, no matter how infrequently they actually exercise that choice.



Mumbai : Old buildings (source : Alok Tripathi, April 2009)

Something similar applies to the built structure of the city. As a resident you carry in your head a mental image of the city, which has in place not only your home and office and the street network you normally use, but also images of the landmarks that populate the image of the city in your mind. The more unusual and distinguished these landmarks, the sharper they will be in recall. You may not visit them in years. But that does not diminish their value as artefacts whose damage or destruction would hurt you. I do not have to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra every year, or even in decades, to feel upset if someone threatens to change its environs. And I do not even live in Agra. Is that relevant? Altering the Taj would damage something in my mind.

That, in fact, is what heritage is all about. We need to conserve and preserve what we love, not destroy it in the name of 'development'. And if we want new construction we must find room for it elsewhere, without replacing something precious that already exists. This means recognising that while heady profits may be sorely tempting to a developer, government as a regulator must weigh against this the loss of something in people's imagi-nations, which can be assigned no monetary value at all.

For instance, an argument over Mumbai's Crawford Market has been about the dilapi-dated sheds at the back; everyone seems to agree that the main structure of the building and its clock tower are important and must be preserved. The debate is over how intense redevelopment of the sheds can be. Should they just be modernised, with a moderate addition of floor space, or replaced by a glass-faced multi-storeyed mall? The possibility of the latter emerges from the notion that anywhere in the city we now have carte blanche to go up to a floor space index (FSI) of four.

Here, surely, the point is to preserve the character of Crawford Market, not just the stone building on the front. It is a multi-commodity market which functions around a central courtyard that is open to sky. The height all round is limited. These are the features that give the market its character. The sheds could certainly be redeveloped and modernised and some floor space added, even a full basement, without destroying the fundamental ambience and character of the market. What every customer enjoys is the fact that this is so different from a shopping mall. It is that specific aspect of the quality of life in Crawford Market that needs to be preserved. Whether we actually go there or not, that is the experience we enjoy in our mind's eye.

Some Mumbai municipal authorities seem to feel that designating a private



Mumbai : Old building (source : Alok Tripathi, April 2009)

building as a heritage site is unfair to the owner, because he cannot exploit it in the same way as his neighbour. This is a trivial problem to which any seasoned administrator can find an equitable solution.

You could relieve the heritage building owner of the burden of property taxes to compensate for his having to spend more than normal on, maintenance. This is the model adopted in Prague, a city with nine centuries of distinct architectural styles cheek-by-jowl, a city whose character and value lies only in its built heritage. Or you could release the FSI on the heritage property whose development you are constraining and allow it to be used elsewhere in the neighbourhood, so that the profits arising out of any development are shared with the owner of the heritage building. Or you could compensate the heritage property owner directly.

You can solve the problem of equity in a range of ways, without abandoning the principle that society's larger interests and the long-term demands of high-quality and attractive development both call for the preservation of whatever we have inherited that people treasure.

- Shirish B. Patel
Urban planner, Mumbai
[*source : TOI, 11.04.2009*]

OPPORTUNITIES

An intensive course on Cultural Heritage Resources for Local Development and Tourism Strategies

Leuven, Belgium, September 2009

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) would be organizing a postgraduate level intensive course from 13-19 September 2009. The main objective of this project is to discuss - in an international forum- strategies to valorize local cultural heritage resources for local development. The initiative is sponsored by the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR-UOS) in the context of a scientific development-funding program. The focus of the course is on cultural heritage as a potential resource for local and regional economic impulses. In many situations tourism has become an important economic driver for local development, if not the only one. The mechanism and conditions of this process needs to be scanned.

Creating awareness about the cultural capital of communities and territories among policy makers is a first step in the process of supporting economic programs and eventually empowerment of local stakeholders. Sometimes it takes external incentives to (re)define cultural identity and stimuli from 'outsiders' to start a process of commoditization of cultural assets. Building know-how on the ways to connect local initiatives with global networks and markets is an important challenge.

These objectives require a multidisciplinary approach and interpretation. Current 'trial and error' strategies to revalorize cultural assets need to be replaced by knowledge about the interaction of communities, territories, different stakeholders and the step by step process of establishing a new sustainable base.

The state of the art in cultural heritage management and in sustainable models for cultural tourism to destinations in development areas will be introduced and discussed as a theoretical framework for the course. The emphasis of the course however will be on the application of models and ideas in specific case studies, taking into account the quantity and quality of cultural assets (tangible and intangible) in a territory but also and, above all the range of preconditions to develop tourism activities in a competitive and sustainable way.

There is no blue print for an optimal and successful development model, but there are many lessons to be learnt from good and bad examples worldwide.

The course will initiate and facilitate an interactive debate in which all participants will contribute with their own experiences and background. The introduction to key issues will be given by experts with various disciplinary backgrounds; experts in heritage conservation and management, experts in tourism development planning - issues such as destination management, marketing and branding, organization and participation of stakeholders, etc. Participants would also present their research work and share their case studies with the other participants.

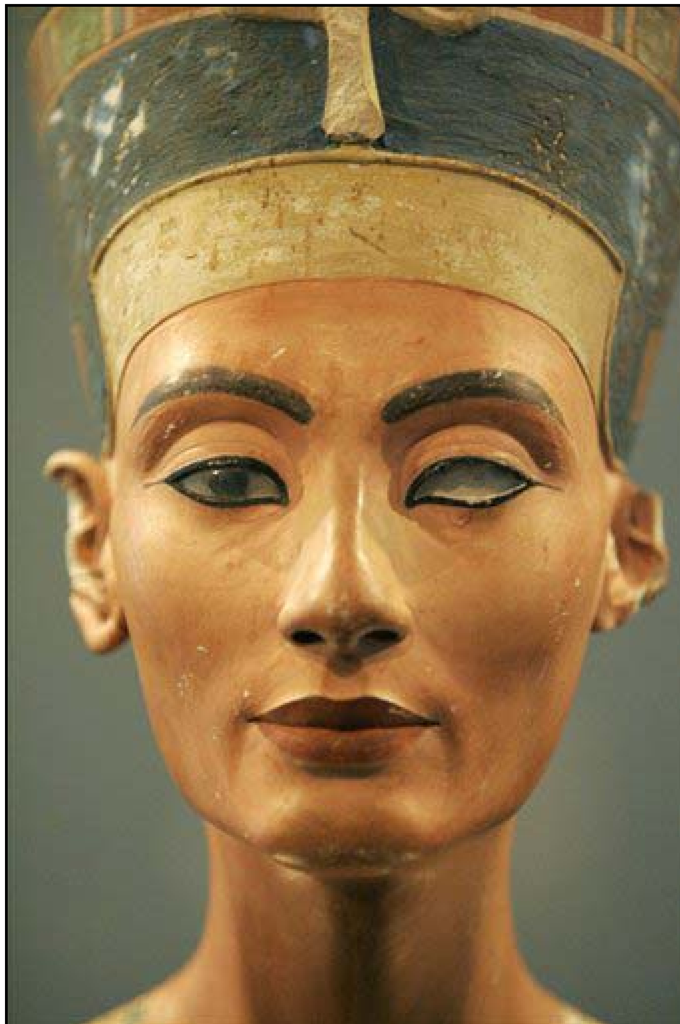
The proposed course invites 20 participants with a genuine involvement in the interactive field of cultural heritage, local development and cultural tourism. Participation in this scientific course should be a source of inspiration for their current work, and have an actual impact on their future research, whether this is in policymaking or management tasks, teaching assignment or other professional

involvement in this field of study.

A one-day field trip to cultural heritage sites in Flanders will be included in the program. There will be a selection procedure since the funding is limited to 20 participants. Administrative coordinator for the course is - Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, KULeuven - Kasteelpark Arenberg 1 bus 2431 - B 3001 Heverlee. Details about the course may be obtained from www.asro.kuleuven.be/rlicc .

TECHNOLOGY

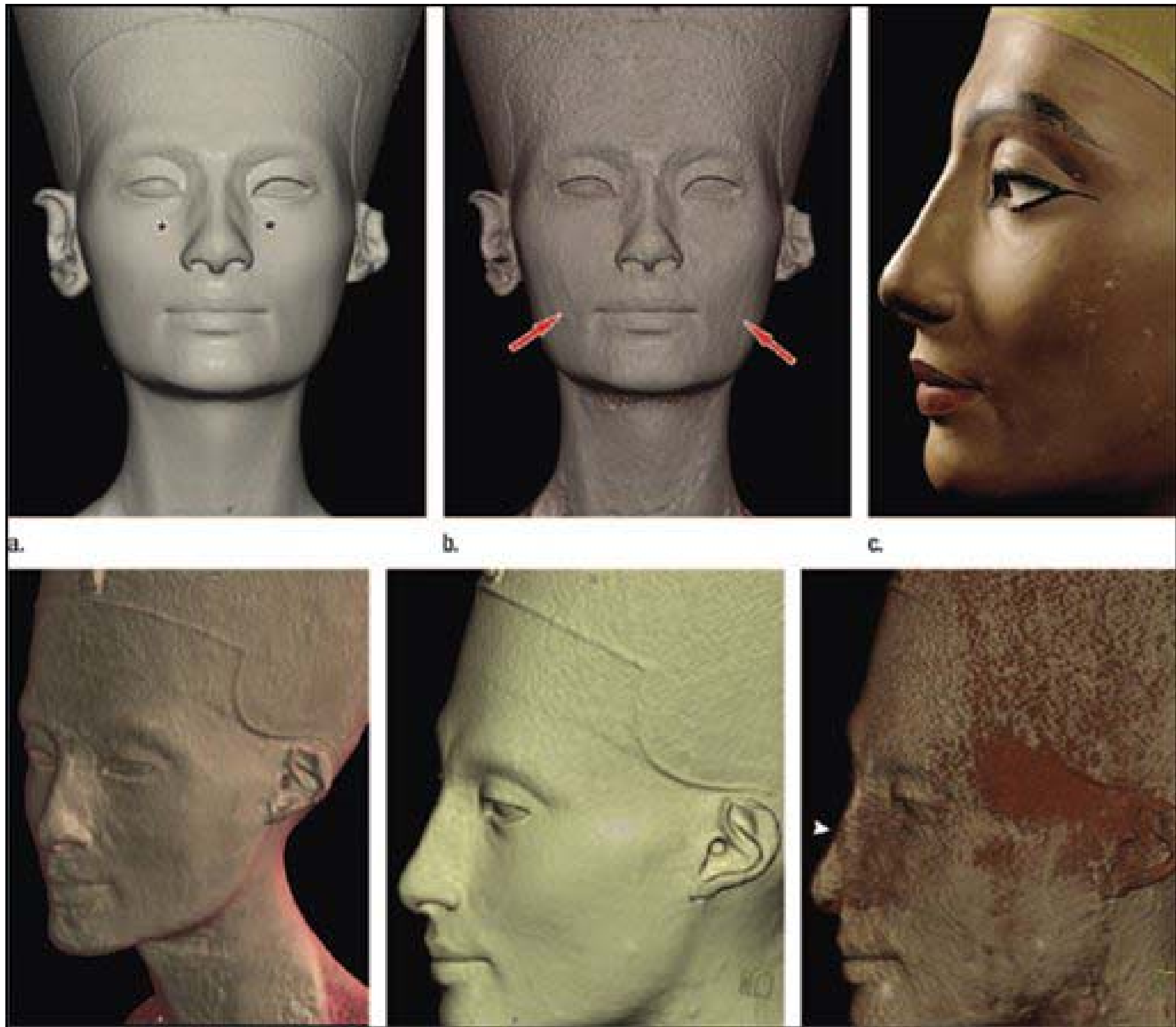
CT Scan : Hidden Face Under Nefertiti Bust



Nefertiti bust in Berlin Old Museum
(source: AP Photo/Fritz Reiss, 27.3.2009)

The bust of Nefertiti is one of ancient Egypt's most treasured artworks. Egyptologist Ludwig Borchardt discovered the bust in 1912 and added it to Berlin's Egyptian collection on Museum Island, a cluster of five neoclassical art halls that make up one of the city's most familiar landmarks. By using a modern medical procedure, researchers have now uncovered a secret — the bust of Nefertiti has two faces.

A team led by Alexander Huppertz, director of the Imaging Science Institute at Berlin's Charite hospital and medical school, performed a computed tomography (CT) scan on the bust and discovered a detailed stone carving that differs from the external stucco face. The findings are published in the monthly journal



Bust of Nefertiti - photo composite (source: AP Photo/Radiological Society of North America)

Radiology. It shows that the stone core of the statue is a highly detailed sculpture of the queen.

The scan raises interesting questions about why the features were adjusted. Some of the changes made are positive, others are negative. The differences between the faces, though slight — creases at the corners of the mouth, a bump on the nose of the stone version — suggest that someone expressly ordered the adjustments between stone and stucco when royal sculptors immortalized the wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten 3,300 years ago.

Till this CT scan was done, it was not known that how deep the stucco was or whether a second face was underneath. The hypothesis was that the stone underneath was just a support.



Nefertiti bust in museum
(source: AP Photo)

It could be deduced that the final version was considered in some way more acceptable than the 'hidden' one. Though caution is needed in attempting to explain the significance of these changes.

The bust had undergone a similar CT scan in 1992, but the cross sections of the statue generated then were not so detailed to reveal the subtlety of the carving hidden just 1-2 millimeters under the stucco.

Currently on display at the Altes Museum, the bust will move next door when the Neues Museum reopens in October after a lengthy restoration.

The findings of this study are significant for the information they shed on the constructional process and the subsurface condition of the bust. Better understanding of the bust's structure will also help to preserve it.

[Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iq4wJzkw8bqbVEG0t3tPVMx5J8jgD979731G4]

MUSEUMS

Bishop Museum: Closing Hawaii Maritime Center

With recent cuts in state funding, loss of income from investments and a continued decline in non-resident visitors the Bishop Museum, Honolulu would be temporarily closing the Hawaii Maritime Center. They also expect to lay off workers - full-time and part-time employees, institute furloughs and make pay cuts to deal with the tough economic times and to deal with cuts in revenue. The museum will close on Tuesdays to cut back on personnel expenses. The closures and cuts are scheduled to start on May 1.

[source: http://www.kitv.com/money/19153429/detail.html]

LEGAL ISSUES

Director, Archaeology Told to Appear in Court

A division bench of Rajasthan High Court ordered director, Department of archeology, Government of Rajasthan, to appear in person in court along with the entire record of the development work undertaken for the restoration of Amber Fort as well along with the notification declaring Amber Palace as a state-protected monument.

The bench has taken *suo motu* cognizance, after a part of the ancient wall of the Fort collapsed during the shooting of a film. The court had then stayed the shooting but later allowed it with an exemplary cost of Rs. 20 lakh as compensation. In his report the *amicus curiae* stated that in the name of restoration the entire heritage structure of the Fort has been compromised and an entirely new "Sheeshmahal" has been constructed with a pantry and a bar to serve as a pub-cum-restaurant against the law.

The *amicus curiae*, in his report, has made it clear along with photographs that the heritage fabric of the fort has been destroyed. The report highlighted that there was a huge loss to the ancient building as there is hardly any old window or door pan left in the fort and the whereabouts of the old structures and antiques are not known.

The Court expressed angler on destruction caused to the protected monument in the name of conservation. The Court observed "If the state government wants to go with such type of destructive development then why they don't decide to declare Amber Palace as a luxury hotel instead of a protected monument of the state".

[source: http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Cities/Director-archaeology-told-to-appear-in-court/articleshow/4341677.cms]

The laws, Central as well as State, are quite comprehensive and clearly define various activities permitted in a protected monument. Due to lack of knowledge about the laws, poor public awareness and in over enthusiasm, many agencies, responsible for the protection of cultural heritage have carried out activities not in consonance of the law and contrary to their duties.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 defines - *any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave* as "antiquity". Hence the articles removed from any protected monument can not be just thrown or disposed off but these old and removed parts need to be preserved as antiquity.

Arrested for Bath in Tank Around Sher Shah Suri Tomb

A man has been arrested for bathing in the tank surrounding the 16th century tomb of Pathan king Sher Shah Suri in Sasaram in Bihar's Rohtas district, an ancient monument of national importance. It is the first such case after district authorities banned discharge of polluted water, immersion of idols and bathing in the tank. The ban was imposed early this year by the Patna High Court to preserve the monument.

The arrested man has been identified as Ramji Prasad, a resident of a village in Buxar district. The district administration deployed central paramilitary forces around the tank early this week to prevent devotees from offering rituals at the Chaita Chhhath Puja. In January, it did not allow immersion of idols in the tank after Saraswati Puja.

Last November, the Patna High Court expressed unhappiness that the monument was being neglected and exposed to pollution. Some parts have also been encroached upon. It directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Rohtas district administration to take measures to preserve the monument.



ASI official had warned the state government about the ecological threats to the tomb and also moved the Patna High Court to seek removal of illegal constructions around the tomb. The ASI also approached the district administration for revival of inlet and outlet channels of the tank, and to prevent the immersion of idols, washing of clothes and bathing.

The tank around the five-storey tomb in Sasaram town, is filled with acidic industrial discharge while illegally constructed buildings have come up all around it. It is posing a serious threat to the mausoleum's life - it will destroy the building material and weaken the structure. The tank's depth has decreased alarmingly in the last two decades.

[source: http://www.worldlatestnews.com/nation-india/man-arrested-for-bath-in-tank-around-sher-shah-suri-tomb]

NEWS

Earthquake Damage to Historical Monuments



L'Aquila, Italy : Damage to the cathedral Santa Maria di Collemaggio (source: Police Press Office via Getty Images)

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake in Abruzzo caused significant damage to historical buildings and works of art, though the extent of damage is to be determined. L'Aquila was founded in the 13th century and had its moment of greatest socioeconomic importance in the Renaissance.

In L'Aquila, the regional capital, the rear part of the apse of the Romanesque basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio, much of which was restored in the 20th century, collapsed and cupolas in at least two churches in the historic center had cracked open.

The third floor of the 16th-century castle that houses the National Museum of Abruzzo was also affected by the quake, though officials have not been able to verify the damage to the art collection there. The Porta Napoli, built in 1548 in honor of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, was destroyed in the quake.

This earthquake was not the first to strike the central Italian city. In 1703, a quake destroyed much of the medieval historic center, which was then rebuilt in the Baroque style.

The quake had also damaged the Baths of Caracalla, one of the most imposing ancient Roman ruins in the Italian capital, some 60 miles west of the epicenter of the quake, and there was significant damage reported in the villages around L'Aquila as well.

[source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/07/world/europe/07damage.html?_r=1&ref=global-home]

China : Terracotta Army Warriors or Servants

Liu Jiusheng professor at Shaanxi Normal University is out with a theory that the world-famous Terracotta Soldiers of Xi'an are not soldiers at all--they are royal servants and bodyguards, most likely modeled after high-ranking Qin dynasty officials.

The terracotta army was discovered by chance in 1974. The 1,000-strong terracotta army was listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO in December 1987. The tomb that it 'guards' has since been excavated, yielding many treasures. Most historians believe the 2,200-year-old clay statues buried near the emperor's tomb represent an army custom-made to guard him in the afterlife.

Professor Liu argues ordinary soldiers weren't allowed to get close to the emperor, even in death. Furthermore, he says the figures stand at around 190 cm., much taller than average Chinese past or present. Liu theorizes the clay statues were probably made taller to show their elevated social status. Though not widely accepted, experts say Liu's argument is worth studying.

[*source : http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/13/content_11180738.htm*]

Underground Station for Terracotta Warriors Museum

The city of Xi'an, famous for buried army of the Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, mosques, pagodas and the splendid city walls is to build an underground station in 2013 to cater for visitors.

The underground journey from the city center to the museum would be 30 kilometers long and is expected to take 50 minutes. Lintong district receives 7.5 million tourists every year, including 500,000 from overseas. The east-west Line 1 will pass the terracotta warriors museum would become a major boost for tourism.

[*source : http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/13/content_11180107.htm*]

UNESCO

World Digital Library Puts Cultural Heritage Online

The organizers at UNESCO and the Library of Congress will launch an online database of images that aims to put the best of world culture online from UNESCO's Paris headquarters. The World Digital Library is the brainchild of James Billington, Washington's Librarian of Congress. It aims to eventually include material gathered from hundreds of partner institutions from around the world, all viewable free of charge.

For now, the site includes tens of thousands of images gathered from 32 partners, including the French National Library; the U.K.'s Wellcome Collection, Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah University, and the Qatar Foundation. Offerings include manuscripts, films, and audio recordings; periodicals in several languages; and scientific documents such as the first sketch of the DNA double helix. Funding for the multimillion-dollar project has so far come from private donations from corporations such as Google and Microsoft.

[source: http://www.artinfo.com/news/story/31069/world-digital-library-puts-cultural-heritage-online/]

DISCOVERY

12th Century Ganesha Statue Found in Indonesia

A research team from the Mpu Purwa Historical Object Preservation Center in Malang, East Java has recovered a rare 12th-century stone statue of Ganesha. The 40 x 22 x 22 cm. statue of elephant-headed deity, depicted as riding atop a mouse, is rare. This type of statue has never been found in Indonesia before. Ganesha is usually seen riding the Lembu Nandhini cow, the Jatayu bird, or sitting on the lotus.

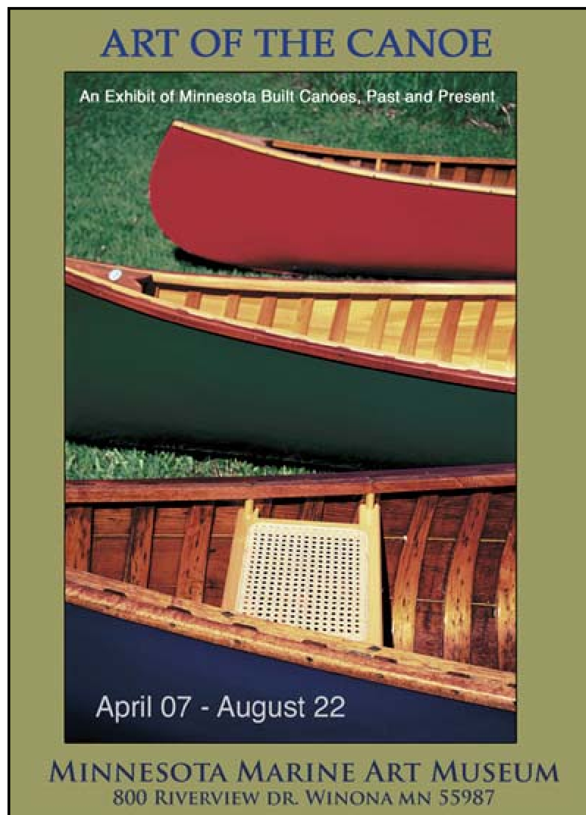
Other singularities of this statue, recently handed over by a private collector, include Ganesha's stiff facial expression and a badhong carving on the shoulders. The decorations worn by the god, also called samboghakaya, are also more lavish.

The badhong strand is part of the special trait of statues inherited from the Kediri empire, from the Raja Baneswara to Kertajaya kingdoms. The most special trait is

the mouse as a vehicle on the pedestal of the statue. Comparison of this statue with the National Archeology Research and Development Center in Jakarta, the Trowulan Center for Archeological Conservation and Heritage in Mojokerto, and the Archeological Center in Yogyakarta, confirmed the statue was a one-of-a-kind that had never been seen before.

[source: http://www.entertainmentandshowbiz.com/archaeology-recovered-ganesha-statue-from-12th-century-one-of-its-2009040814097]

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY



Winona Marine Museum : Exhibition on Canoe Art

Minnesota Marine Art Museum is holding an exhibition "Art of the Canoe". The exhibition showcases the beautiful craftsmanship that goes into many wooden canoes. Items on display include a traditional Ojibway birch bark canoe, a 10-person "war" canoe used at summer camps and wood-strip racing canoes. Wenonah Canoe, a Winona business that now makes out more than 1,000 canoes a month.

[source: http://wcco.com/minnesotawire/22.0.html?type=local&state=MN&category=n&filename=MN--CanoeArt.xml]

ANTIQUITIES

US Museum to Return Roman Fresco Fragment to Italy

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles would return a piece of an ancient Roman fresco to Italy. The 35 x 31 inch fragment, which dates back to the first century BCE, depicts several Roman buildings in a cityscape. The painted panel, bordered in red and gold was donated to the museum in 1996.

The museum noticed last year that it matched another piece of a wall painting that

a private collector was returning to Italy. Experts decided the two fragments came from the same fresco and Getty officials decided to return their piece.

The fragment has been removed from display and will be sent to the Italian Ministry of Culture in May. The Getty has returned more than three dozen ancient artifacts that Italy claimed were looted from archaeological sites. But this wall fragment is not believed to have been looted.

[source: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/08/arts/design/08arts-GETTYTORETUR_BRF.html?ref=arts]

COLLABORATION

Recognition (?) From U.K. for Pattanam Research

The Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) is working on the archaeological site at Pattanam in Ernakulam district, Kerala since 2007. Pattanam has revealed diverse finds associated with Indian Ocean exchange including imports from Rome, West Asia and China, dating back to the 2nd century BCE and up to 10th century CE.

The British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) has accepted the formation of an international research group of Pattanam enthusiasts. It has also decided to recognise the Indian Ocean exchanges of the Early Historic and subsequent periods as a theme for inter-disciplinary and international research. Roberta Tomber of the British Museum is conveners of the group. It said the purpose of the research group was to provide a forum for international collaborators, to direct future research at Pattanam, including conservation.

The group include Shinu Abraham (St. Lawrence University, US), Lucy Blue (Southampton University, UK), Robin Coningham (Durham University, UK) Federico De Romanis (UniversitÀ degli Studi di Roma 'Tor Vergata,' Italy), Derek Kennet (Durham University, UK), Raghava Varier (Arya Vaidyasala, Kottakkal), K. Rajan (Pondicherry University), Steven Sidebotham (Delaware University, US), V. Selvakumar (Tamil University, Thanjavur), Heidrun Schenk (Tissamaharama-Projek des Deutschen Archäologischen Institut, Bonn), K.P. Shajan (UK), Y. Subrayalu (Institut Français de Pondichéry) and Kesavan Veluthat (Mangalore University).

[*source: The Hindu, 20.3.2009*]

Collaboration among scholars as well as institutions is the need of the hour and international collaborations for multidisciplinary researches is appreciable. But over two centuries' fieldworks and researches in the country, does archaeological researches in India still require recognition from abroad?

APPOINTMENTS

Ms Minja Yang, Director and UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka retired from UNESCO on 31 March 2009. She will be working part-time at UNESCO World Heritage Centre at Paris, France.

Dr Warren Mellor has been appointed Director and UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka from 1 April 2009.

Dr S. R. Walimbe joined the Pune University as Professor and Head, Department of Anthropology, Pune University in March 2009.

OBITUARY

Dr D. Jithendra Das
(3.4.1950 – 6.4.2009)

Dr D. Jithendra Das, Superintending Archaeologist in Hyderabad Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India, passed away on 6 April 2009.

Devarapalli Jithendra Das was born on 3rd April 1950 in an agricultural family. He obtained his Post Graduate degree in archaeology from A.U.P.G. Centre, Guntur, Andhra University in 1976. In 1982 he obtained Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology from the School of Archaeology, New Delhi. The Nagarjuna University awarded him Doctor of Philosophy in 1991 on Buddhist Architecture of Andhra Desa.

He joined the Archaeological Survey of India in 1979 as Technical Assistant at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu, and worked in different parts of the country in various capacities. In 1985 he was promoted as Senior Technical Assistant and posted in Calcutta Circle. In 1988, he became Assistant Superintending Archaeologist and worked in Cochin Museum. Two years later he became Deputy Superintending Archaeologist and from 1990 to 1997 he worked in Museum Branch

at Calcutta, Museum and Circle at Chennai. In 1997 he became Superintending Archaeologist and worked at Guwahati Circle (1997 to 1998), Excavation Branch, Mysore (2001 to 2003), Bhubaneshwar Circle (2003 to 2005) and Hyderabad Circle (since 2005).

During his service in the Archaeological Survey of India, he contributed to the fields of conservation and preservation, excavations and explorations and museology in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal.

Dr Das directed excavations at Sanathi, district Gulbarga; and Hampi, district Bellary (Karnataka); Ratanagiri, district Jaipur and Chandwar, district Cuttack, (Orissa); Suryapahar (Assam), and Ghantasala, district Krishna (Andhra Pradesh). He had also initiated the archaeological exploration of the submergence area under Pulichintala project in Guntur and Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh.

Some of his contributions in the field of conservation include the restoration of *Adhisthana* of the Sun temple at Konark, Orissa; conservation of monuments at Hampi, Karnataka. He also carried-out conservation of Mahastupa Complex at Amravati during the Kalachakra 2006, Mahastupa at Ghantasala where he systematically exposed buried features, and Mahastupa at Battiprolu in Guntur district. He also brought to light some of the buried structures at Golconda. The conservation project of Kalyanamandapa in Thousand Pillared temple complex was also commenced during his tenure. Besides he has carried out anti encroachment drive at all places to safeguard the austerity of ancient monuments.

During his posting in Museum Branch he worked in various museums. His interest in museums continued and as the Superintending Archaeologist he established a museum at Ghantasala and revamped archaeological museums under Hyderabad Circle.

Dr Das visited Lao Peoples Democratic Republic to study the modalities for the conservation and restoration of Vat Phou temple in Chjampasak province of Lao PDR. He published a book on *Buddhist Architecture of Andhra* and about 15 research articles.

- Alok Tripathi
S.A., A.S.I., New Delhi

Notes for Contributors

Sanatan has become one of the fastest medium to share information on recent researches and expert views with a large number of professionals in related fields. Time to time we have informed our members about the contributions to *Sanatan*. With every issue our members are increasing and we keep getting communications in this regard.

Sanatan is an OPEN ACADEMIC FORUM where one can share any news or views which one feels would be of use to people in the field or researchers in allied subjects. You may send information on diverse subjects and in various formats. They may include —

Research articles
Reinterpretations
Comments on vital issues
News of general interest
Reports on academic events
Short notes on recent discoveries
Important publications
Views and photographs
Information on seminar and conferences
Invitation for contributing papers, etc.

It attempts to have frequent exchange of information among all those working in related fields for their benefit and in turn for the development of disciplines. All the members are therefore requested to keep sending their contributions for inclusion in bulletin and the annual issue.

Send your views, information, materials to sanatan08082008@gmail.com for sharing.